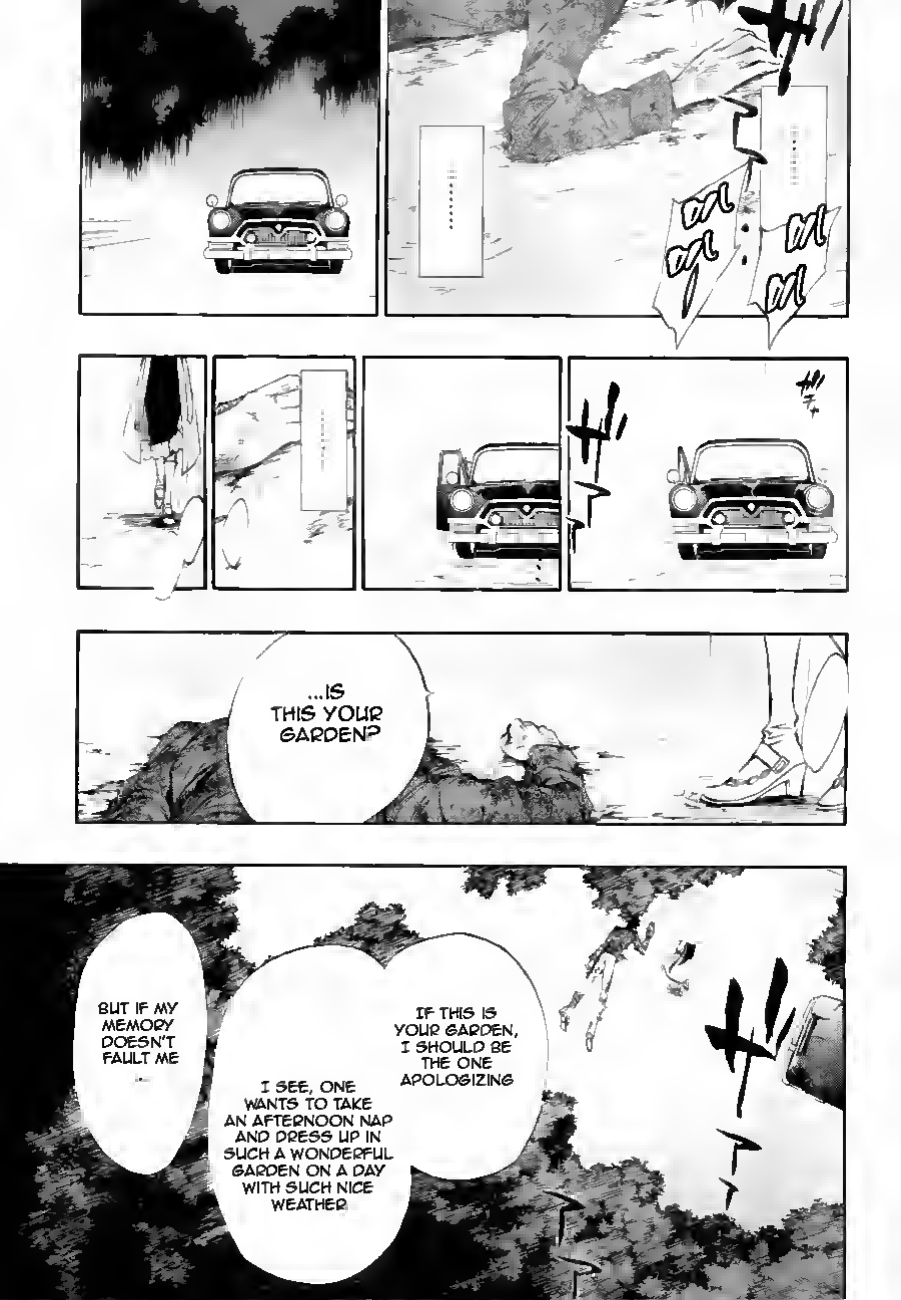
I CAN HEAR IT ALL THE TIME ...
WHAT IS THIS SOUND ?

THE SOUND OF RAIN ...?
.....
... HOW LONG ...
.....
... HAVE I BEEN HERE FOR ...


...IS THIS YOUR GARDEN?
BUT IF MY MEMORY DOESN'T FAULT ME...
I SEE, ONE WANTS TO TAKE AN AFTERNOON NAP AND DRESS UP IN SUCH A WONDERFUL GARDEN ON A DAY WITH SUCH NICE WEATHER
IF THIS IS YOUR GARDEN, I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING

THIS IS A NATIONAL PUBLIC ROAD.
DO YOU WANT TO BE TURNED INTO MINCED MEAT THAT BADLY?
UH
UUH ...
OR HAVE YOU ALREADY BEEN MINCED?
WHATEVER IT IS, I WISH YOU WOULD TELL ME.

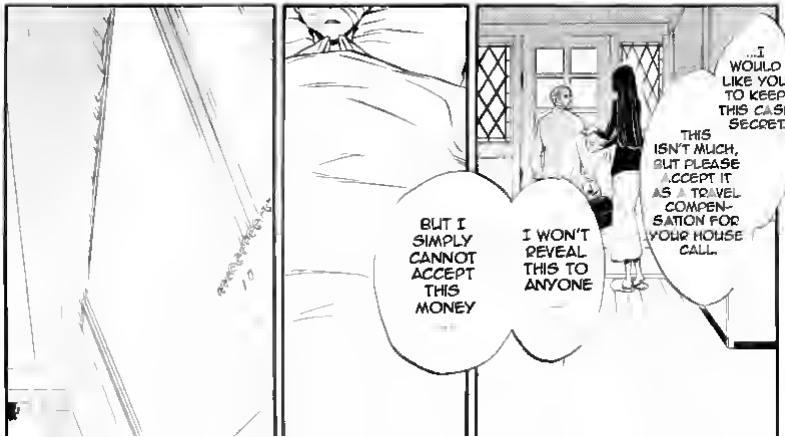
I SEE...
SO YOU'RE NOT MINCED MEAT YET.
ズズ…
ゴゴゴゴゴ…
ドドドドド…

INTERLUDE - HACHIJO IKUKO

HE IS ALMOST COMPLETELY WASTED AWAY.

IF HE HAD KEPT LYING THERE IT WOULDN'T HAVE ENDED THIS WELL FOR HIM THOUGH
BUT IT MERELY SEEMS TO BE DAMAGED AND OVERALL HE SEEMS FINE.
I CAN'T KNOW ANY FURTHER WITHOUT A CT SCAN, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE BRAIN HAS BEEN DAMAGED.
BEYOND THAT, THE PROBABILITY OF MEMORY IMPAIRMENT IS QUITE HIGH.

THANK YOU, DOCTOR.
AT ANY RATE, I ADVISE THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE HIM LOOKED AT IN A BIGGER HOSPITAL.
SO ...


BUT I SIMPLY CANNOT ACCEPT THIS MONEY
I WON'T REVEAL THIS TO ANYONE
THIS ISN'T MUCH, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT IT AS A TRAVEL COMPENSATION FOR YOUR HOUSE CALL.
...I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KEEP THIS CASE SECRET.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING NOW?
OH MY, YOU'VE WOKEN UP
HACHIJO
IKUKO
I AM HACHIJO IKUKO.
YOU CAN JUST CALL ME IKUKO OR STAY FORMAL AND SAY, HACHIJO-SAN, I DON'T MIND EITHER WAY.
AROUND THESE PARTS THE HACHIJO FAMILY IS QUITE WELL KNOWN AS BIG LAND-OWNERS
BUT COMPARED TO THE GOOD RECORDS OF MY BIG BROTHERS I AM A LITTLE WEIRD AND HAVE HAD A FEW SLIPPAGES

I HAVE DONE QUITE A LOT OF WRONG THINGS, SO I'VE LONG LOST MY PARENTS GRACE. THEY'VE GIVEN UP ON ME
THEY BASICALLY KEEP ME CONFINED TO THIS PLACE NOW
MY HOBBY IS READING AND WRITING MYSTERY AND DETECTIVE NOVELS
MY AGE IS A SECRET AND I AM SINGLE.
MY HEART IS THAT OF A YOUNG GIRL, BUT I AM ALREADY APPROACHING AN AGE WHERE IT'S JUST KIND OF RIDICULOUS TO SAY THAT.
HIHIHIHI!
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
WELL THEN.
.....

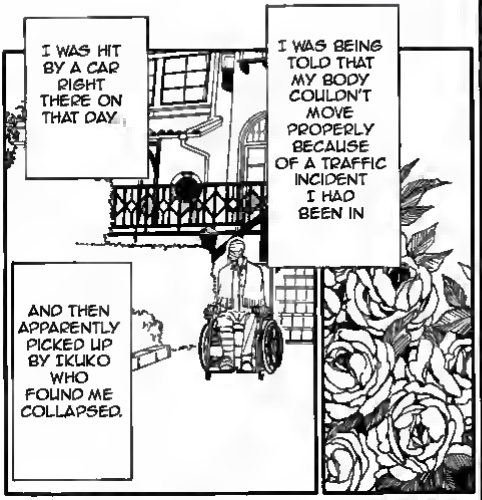
...
MY
...
NAME
....
NGH
MY NAME ...?
NAME IS...
.....
.....
GNGH

I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING ...
MY HEAD AND MY HEART, THEY'RE TORN UP AS IF THEY'RE MINCED MEAT
EVEN THOUGH I UNDERSTAND LOGICALLY THAT I HAVE A NAME, I CAN'T RECALL ANY MORE THAN THAT I AM HUMAN
ズキー...
I CAN'T REMEMBER
I CAN'T REMEMBER...?
MY ... NAME IS ...?

THE BACK OF MY BRAIN FEELS NUMB.
WHO AM I?
WHERE WAS I BORN? WHEN WAS I BORN?
I DON'T CARE, I JUST WANT TO REMEMBER SOMETHING
...
A-
...
GE
...
WHO ...
AM I ...??
SO ...
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE BESIDES YOUR NAME?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND ...
BUT I HAD SOME KIND OF MISSION OR A GOAL I THINK.

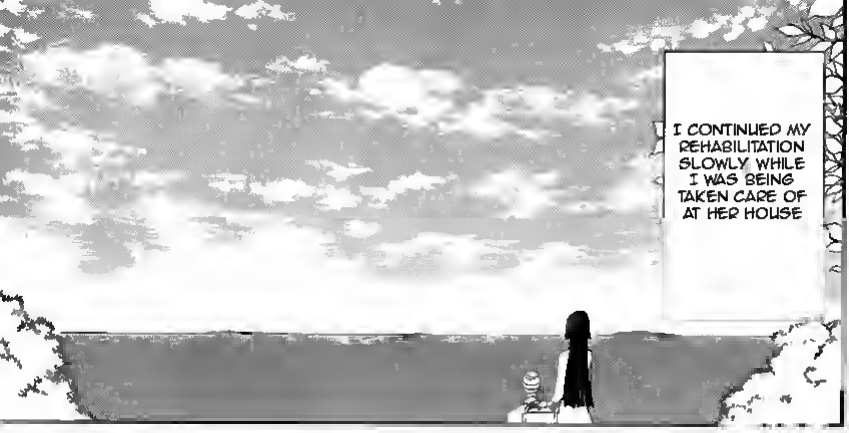
I LOOK LIKE 18?
YEARS...?
18
MY AGE IS A SECRET!
AGE?
...
I AM
...
...
18
...
YEARS OLD
...
OH, YOU MEANT YOUR OWN AGE.
AND I ALREADY THOUGHT YOU STARTED FLATTERING ME.

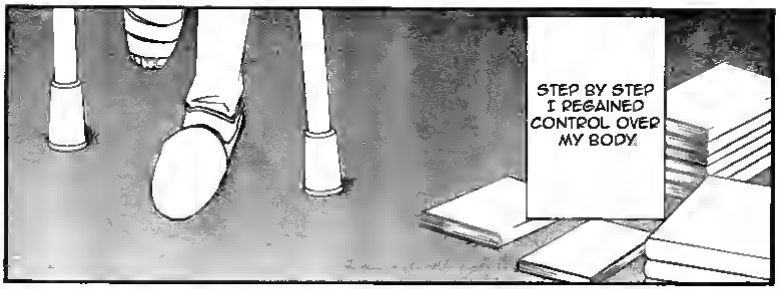
WE GIVE YOU A NAME THAT IS WRITTEN AS 18 IN JAPANESE, WITH THE READING TOHYA?!
HOW ABOUT, UNTIL YOU REMEMBER YOUR OWN NAME.
I SEE, SO YOU ARE 18
AND YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT...
JUST... WHEN I ASKED MYSELF ABOUT MY AGE, THE NUMBER "18" FLOATED TO THE SURFACE...
IT FELT AS IF MY SPIRIT HAD STAYED YOUNG FOREVER AND JUST MY SILLY BODY HAD CONTINUED AGING.
I ONLY HAD A VAGUE FEELING ABOUT ACTUALLY BEING 18.
TO BE QUITE HONEST.
HACHIJO..
TOHYA...
YEAH, I THINK THAT'S QUITE MANLY
I'VE CHOSEN WELL, YES, YES!
HOW ABOUT IT?
HACHIJO TOHYA...


I WAS HIT BY A CAR RIGHT THERE ON THAT DAY.
I WAS BEING TOLD THAT MY BODY COULDN'T MOVE PROPERLY BECAUSE OF A TRAFFIC INCIDENT I HAD BEEN IN
AND THEN APPARENTLY PICKED UP BY IKUKO WHO FOUND ME COLLAPSED.

BUT I DREW IT BACK ONCE I SAW THAT THERE WAS NOT EVEN A SCRATCH ON THE BUMPER OF HER CAR.
THE UNKIND THOUGHT THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN HER AND NO OTHER WHO HAD HIT ME ON THAT DAY CAME TO SOMETIMES

AND FROM THEN ONWARDS
I BECAME KNOWN AS HACHIJO TOHYA.


I CONTINUED MY REHABILITATION SLOWLY WHILE I WAS BEING TAKEN CARE OF AT HER HOUSE


STEP BY STEP I REGAINED CONTROL OVER MY BODY.

YET
THE IMPAIR-MENT OF MY BRAIN WOULDN'T GET BETTER.
TOHYA?

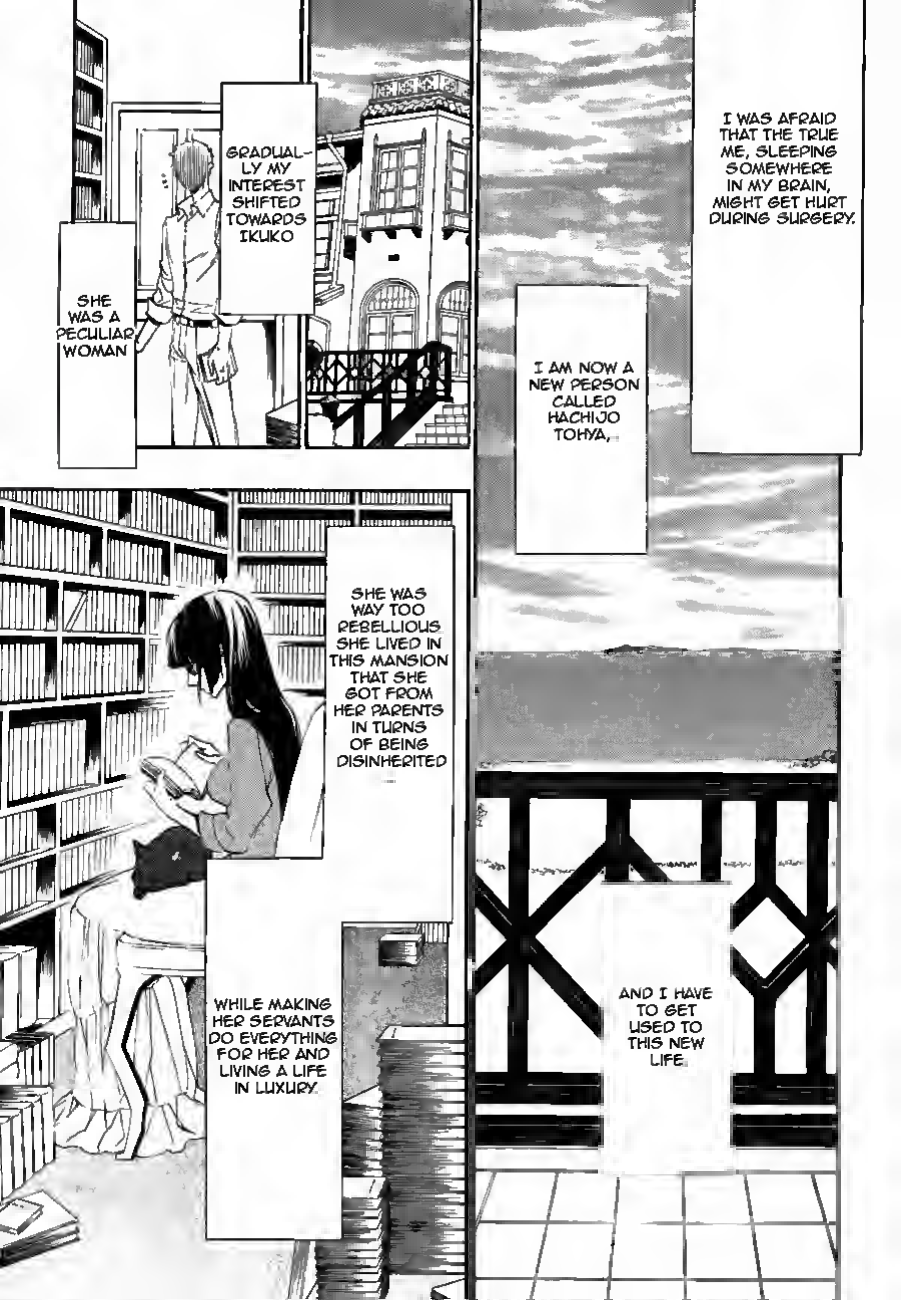
UNGH
GNGH
Who on Gods name am I?
If what she says is true and my memory is faulty then whose are the sceneries and words and thoughts that keep flashing in the depth of this mind?
THE FRUSTRATION OF NOT KNOWING MY OWN IDENTY
AS WELL AS THE SPLITTING MIGRANES THAT KEPT TORTURING ME WHENEVER I TRIED SEARCHING FOR IT, KEPT TORMENTING ME...
THE MEMORY OF BEING 18 WAS THE ONLY THING THAT CAME BACK TO LIFE
AND EVEN FOR THAT I HAD NO CERTAINTY OF IT BEING TRUE.
BEFORE LONG I WAS SET ON ACCEPTING BEING A NEW HUMAN GIVEN THE NEW NAME OF HACHIJO TOHYA, IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THE HEADACHES...
AND I ABANDONED REMEMBERING MY PRIOR SELF.

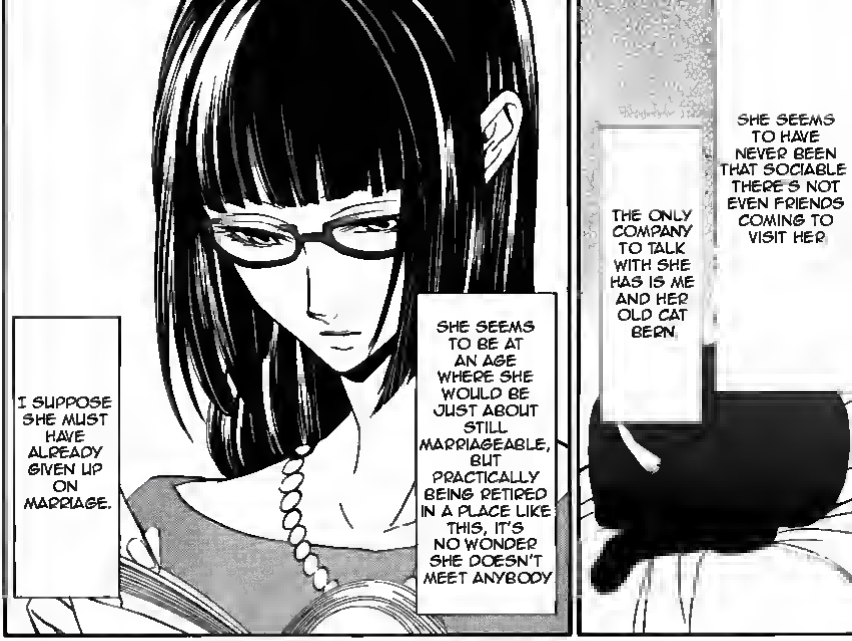
NO
..
I COULDN'T FIND ANY REST AT ALL.
DID YOU SLEEP WELL, DESPITE THE HORRIBLE STORM YESTERDAY?
GOOD MORNING, TOHYA.
READ THE MANUSCRIPT YOU WROTE LAST NIGHT
THAT'S WHY I
ON RAINY DAYS...
I AM JUST SO RESTLESS ...
MY MY, AND HOW FAR DID YOU GET TO READ IT?
I READ ALL OF IT
THAT IS QUITE SOMETHING... TO READ A MANUSCRIPT OF THAT LENGTH IN JUST ONE NIGHT?!

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED.
YOU BECAME TOTALLY ENTRANCED AND THEN READ THROUGH IT IN ONE GO... AS IF YOU JUST FLEW OVER THE SENTENCES. IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE QUITE CRAFTED AT SPEED-READING
SO HOW WAS IT?
HONEST IMPRES-SION
IT WAS REALLY GOOD!
YOU SHOULD JUST MAYBE INSERT AN EXPLANATION OF THE OCEAN CURRENTS, OR ELSE IT'S UNFAIR AS A DETECTIVE NOVEL.
BUT IT WAS SO GOOD THAT THERE WAS FORE-SHADOWING ABOUT THE RING FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
I UNCONSCIOUSLY STARTED GROWLING WHEN I READ OVER THAT PART AGAIN...!
BUT THAT FEELING IS THE EPITOME OF DETECTIVE FICTION, I THINK!

NO!
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
I THINK I SAID SOMETHING RUDE
I'M SORRY
HUM
I AM JUST SURPRISED!
SUCH ACCURATE IMPRESSIONS ARE ABSOLUTELY WORTHY OF PRAISE!
ARE YOU A LITERARY CRITIC BY ANY CHANCE?
YOU SEEM TO EVEN HAVE SOME TALENT AS A MYSTERY AUTHOR YOURSELF!
.....
.....?

A MYSTERY
...
BATTLE
...
...
DETECTIVE NOVELS
...
CRITIQUE
...
AUTHOR
...
.....
I HAVE THIS FEELING THAT I EXCHANGED ARGUMENTS ABOUT THIS TOPIC BEFORE
..
TOHYA!
IF YOU WANT YOU CAN HAVE SURGERY ANY TIME.
THANK YOU.
IT'S BETTER AL-READY.
BRAIN SURGERY
...
IF I UNDERGO THAT SURGERY, EVEN IF THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL RESTORE MY MEMORY, IT WOULD AT LEAST LESSEN THE FREQUENCY OF THE HEADACHES, THE DOCTOR SAID.
I HAVE ALREADY GOTTEN USED.. TO THIS HEADACHES BEING A PART OF ME.
... NO.
.....
... ACTUALLY


I WAS AFRAID THAT THE TRUE ME, SLEEPING SOMEWHERE IN MY BRAIN, MIGHT GET HURT DURING SURGERY.
I AM NOW A NEW PERSON CALLED HACHIJO TOHYA,
AND I HAVE TO GET USED TO THIS NEW LIFE.
GRADUALLY MY INTEREST SHIFTED TOWARDS IKUKO
SHE WAS A PECULIAR WOMAN
SHE WAS WAY TOO REBELLIOUS SHE LIVED IN THIS MANSION THAT SHE GOT FROM HER PARENTS IN TURNS OF BEING DISINHERITED
WHILE MAKING HER SERVANTS DO EVERYTHING FOR HER AND LIVING A LIFE IN LUXURY.


I SUPPOSE SHE MUST HAVE ALREADY GIVEN UP ON MARRIAGE.
SHE SEEMS TO BE AT AN AGE WHERE SHE WOULD BE JUST ABOUT STILL MARRIAGEABLE, BUT PRACTICALLY BEING RETIRED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, IT'S NO WONDER SHE DOESN'T MEET ANYBODY
THE ONLY COMPANY TO TALK WITH SHE HAS IS ME AND HER OLD CAT BERN.
SHE SEEMS TO HAVE NEVER BEEN THAT SOCIABLE THERE'S NOT EVEN FRIENDS COMING TO VISIT HER

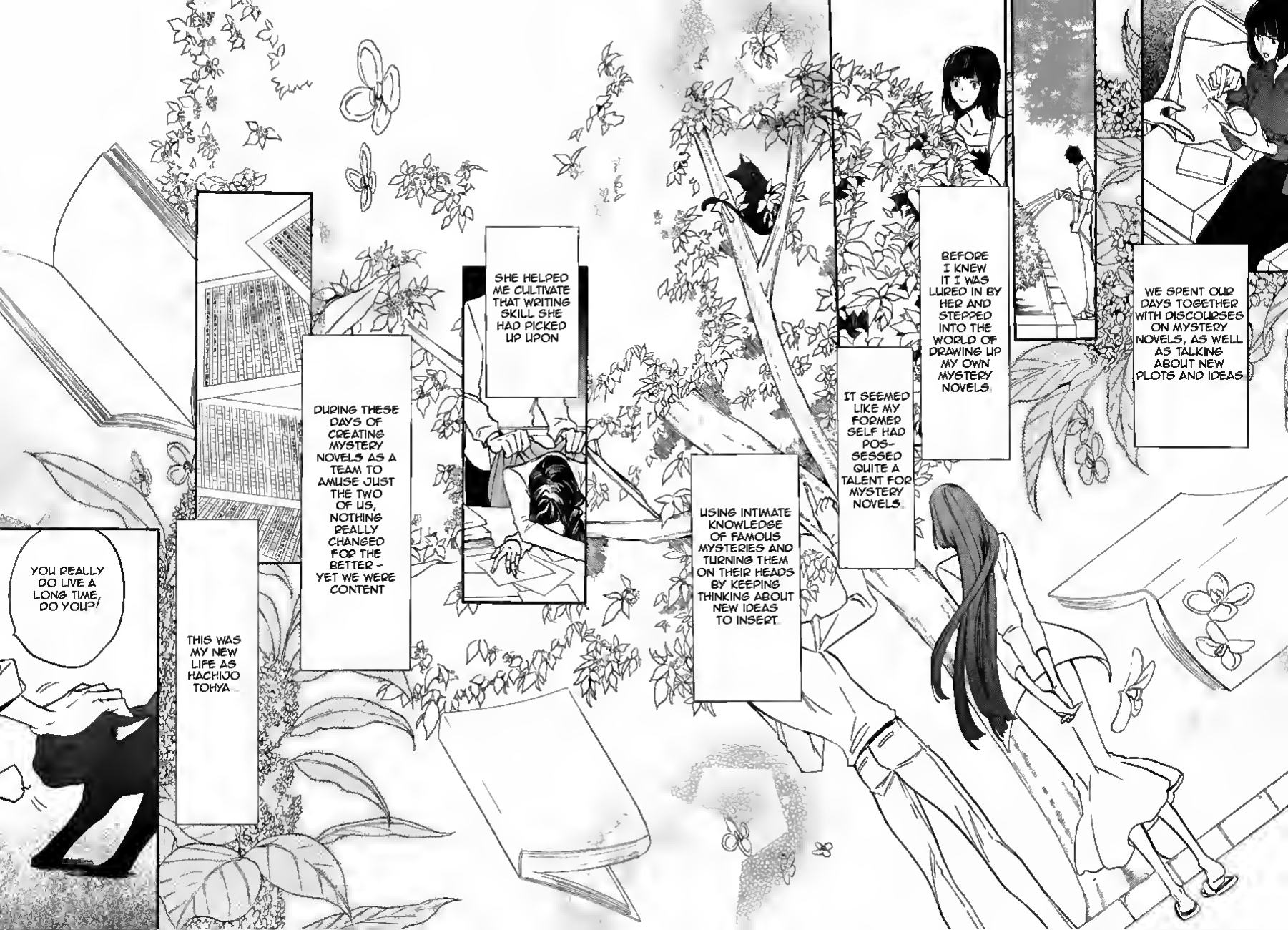
HER DAILY LIFE IS QUITE MONO-TONOUS

I DIDN'T EVER NOTICE HER LETTING SOMEBODY BESIDE ME READ THEM.
AT FIRST I THOUGHT SHE WAS A PROFESSIONAL MYSTERY WRITER, BUT HER DRAFTS ALWAYS ENDED UP BEING CLIPPED TOGETHER AND THROWN ON A PILE OF OTHER DRAFTS.
IT WAS EITHER ONE OF THOSE
ORDERING OR SEARCHING FOR MYSTERY NOVELS, OR WRITING SOMETHING HERSELF

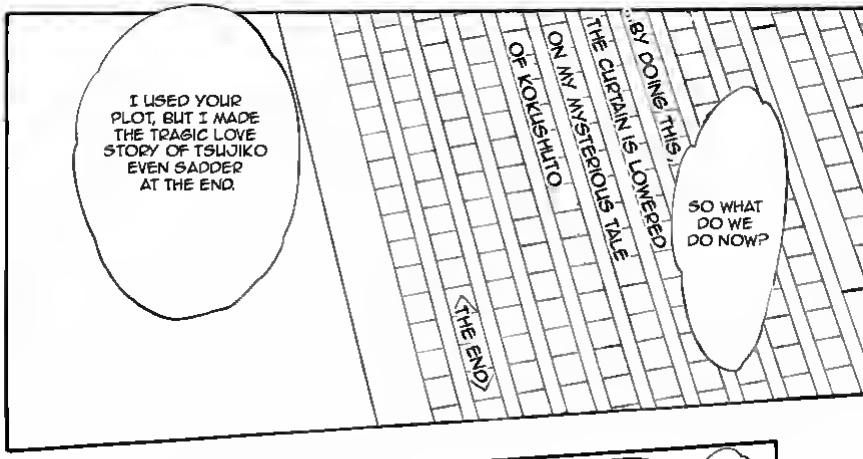
BEING AN AUTHOR IS A PROFESSION WHERE YOU MAKE OTHER PEOPLE READ WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN...
SO SOMEBODY LIKE HER, WHO DOESN'T LET ANYBODY READ WHAT SHE WRITES, CAN IMPOSSIBLY CALL HERSELF AN AUTHOR
IKUKO-SAN, WHY DO YOU NEVER SHOW THESE DRAFTS TO ANYBODY?
I'M SHOWING THEM TO YOU.
OF COURSE ONLY THE ONES I'M SATISFIED WITH
I BET IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU APPLIED TO A PUBLISHER SOMEWHERE
IT'S KIND OF SAD.
MY WORKS ARE NOT PRO-MATERIAL.
I SEND ONE IN ONCE, BUT IT WASN'T ANY GOOD.
IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN AMATEUR ENTERTAINMENT.
SOMEBODY WITH KNOWLEDGE OF ANY KIND OF MYSTERY NOVELS AND TRENDS...
DOESN'T REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CALL HERSELF AN AMATEUR.
A GOURMET DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY MAKE A GOOD COOK
THIS IS NO DIFFERENT.

IT WAS FUN ONCE
AND NOW?
IS IT REALLY FUN TO WRITE NOVELS THAT NOBODY WILL EVER SEE?
I HAVE FINISHED THE FIRST CHAPTER FOR THE TIME BEING
I WILL HAVE SOME TEA ORDERED, SO PLEASE LET ME HEAR YOUR OPINION ON IT.
NOW IT IS FUN TO HEAR YOUR IMPRESSION

NO MATTER IF IT'S READING OR WRITING MYSTERY NOVELS
IT JUST HAS TO BE BORING IF IT IS JUST ON YOUR OWN
ANYTHING SPECIAL WILL SURELY JUST GROW LARGER
SHARING YOUR WORLD WITH SOMEBODY
TOHYA?
I'M AL- RIGHT MORE IMPOR- TANTLY
I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO READING THE NEW CHAPTER
……?


WE SPENT OUR DAYS TOGETHER WITH DISCOURSES ON MYSTERY NOVELS, AS WELL AS TALKING ABOUT NEW PLOTS AND IDEAS.
BEFORE I KNEW IT I WAS LURED IN BY HER AND STEPPED INTO THE WORLD OF DRAWING UP MY OWN MYSTERY NOVELS.
IT SEEMED LIKE MY FORMER SELF HAD POSSESSED QUITE A TALENT FOR MYSTERY NOVELS.
USING INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF FAMOUS MYSTERIES AND TURNING THEM ON THEIR HEADS BY KEEPING THINKING ABOUT NEW IDEAS TO INSERT.
SHE HELPED ME CULTIVATE THAT WRITING SKILL SHE HAD PICKED UP UPON
DURING THESE DAYS OF CREATING MYSTERY NOVELS AS A TEAM TO AMUSE JUST THE TWO OF US, NOTHING REALLY CHANGED FOR THE BETTER – YET WE WERE CONTENT
THIS WAS MY NEW LIFE AS HACHIJO TOHYA.
YOU REALLY DO LIVE A LONG TIME, DO YOU?!

TOHYA, THE MANUSCRIPT IS FINISHED!!
COULD IT BE THAT YOU ARE ACTUALLY A GHOST CAT?


I USED YOUR PLOT, BUT I MADE THE TRAGIC LOVE STORY OF TSUJIKO EVEN SADDER AT THE END.
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
...BY DOING THIS, THE CURTAIN IS LOWERED ON MY MYSTERIOUS TALE OF KOKUSHUTO
〈THE END〉

I THINK THAT'S GREAT!
WITH THE LAST FAREWELL BEING REALLY SAD, IT DIDN'T JUST WORK OUT AS A DETECTIVE NOVEL BUT AS A GENERAL PIECE OF FICTION TOO.

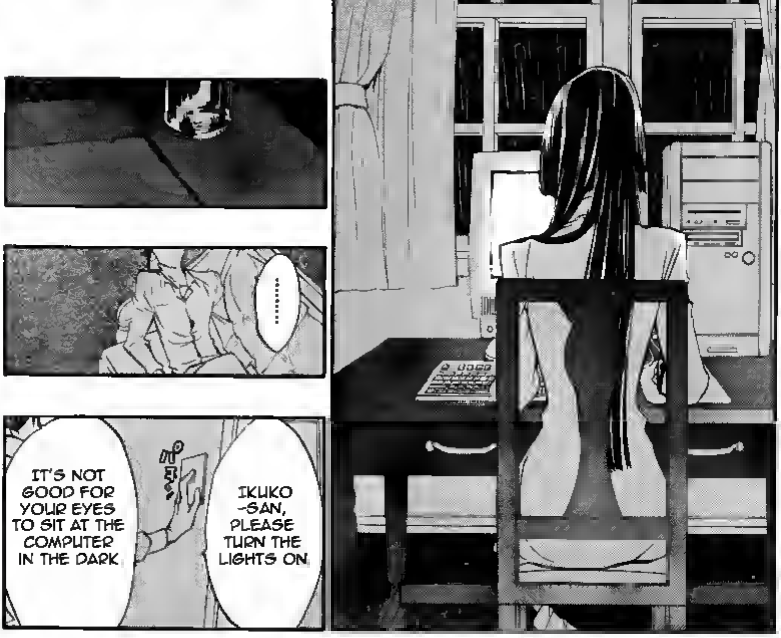
I FELT SO ENTHRALLED WHILE WRITING, BEING THE FIRST IN THE WORLD TO ACTUALLY READ IT... IT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER FELT THIS WAY!
COMPARED TO THIS WORK, ALL MY PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN SCRAP-PAPER.
IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE I HAD YOUR GREAT PLOT AS A BASIS.
I ONLY PUT SOME IDEAS OUT THERE
NO STORY IS FINISHED WITH JUST IDEAS.
YOU ARE RIGHT...!
THIS IS THE GREATEST PIECE OF FICTION I HAVE EVER CREATED...!
SO LET'S CELEBRATE!
THIS IS A MASTERPIECE THAT YOU DON'T NEED TO HIDE FROM ANYBODY...!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO BLOOM INTO A PROPER STORY LIKE THIS

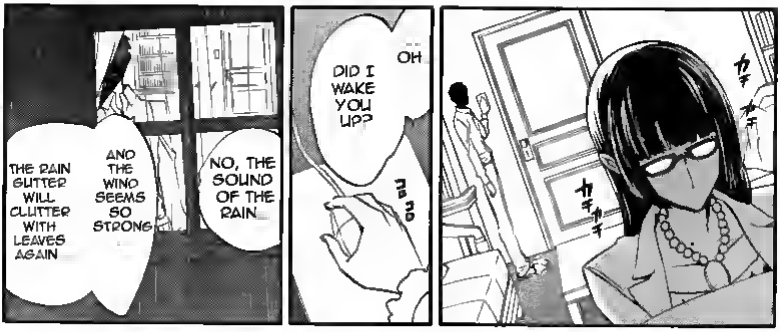
WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR IDEAS, I WILL ALWAYS LEND YOU AN EAR... UNLESS I'M IN THE SHOWER OR ON THE TOILET...!
LET'S HEAR IT!
IKUKO-SAN, I HAVE A PROPOSITION TO MAKE. MAY I?
WHY DON'T WE TRY AND HAND IN OUR JOINT PIECE OF WORK?
I HAVE NEVER READ ANY PIECE OF FICTION BETTER THAN THIS.
I BET A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL COME UP DYING TO READ THIS.
BUT... I ALSO THOUGHT SO BACK THEN... AND THEN IN THE END...

I ALSO FIRMLY BELIEVE IN YOUR TALENT...!
HOW ABOUT YOU?
I FIRMLY BELIEVE IN YOUR TALENT, IKUKO -SAN!
THEN IT'S DECIDED!
TO YOUR MAJOR DEBUT, TOHYA...!
TO YOUR MAJOR DEBUT, IKUKO -SAN...!

I'M TIRED
IKUKO -SAN, I CAN'T..
I CAN'T DRINK ANY MORE...
I ALSO THOUGHT ABOUT OPENING THIS HERE ONCE WE FINISH THE MANUSCRIPT!
OF COURSE, I TOTALLY FORGOT TOHYA!!
SO... TIRED...
BUT.. I CAN'T ...
YEAH... DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ALCOHOL...
IT'S ALRIGHT, TOHYA. THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH MIGHT BE WAY BETTER THAN ALCOHOL!
HA HA HA

RAIN

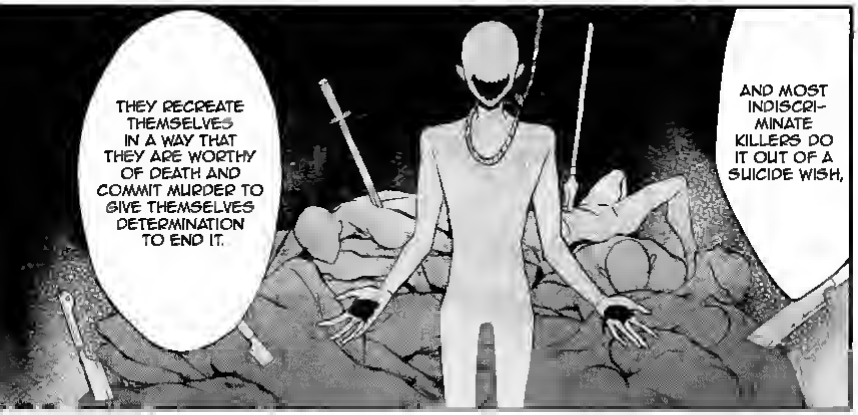

IKUKO -SAN, PLEASE TURN THE LIGHTS ON
IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR EYES TO SIT AT THE COMPUTER IN THE DARK
カチッ
.....

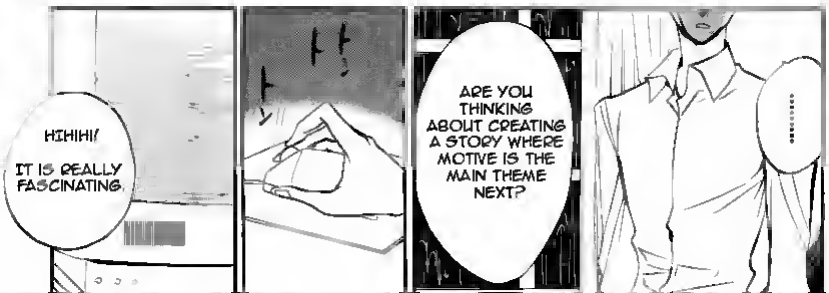

OH
DID I WAKE YOU UP?
na no
NO, THE SOUND OF THE RAIN
AND THE WIND SEEMS SO STRONG
THE RAIN GUTTER WILL CLUTTER WITH LEAVES AGAIN
カチカチ
カチカチ

... RAIN ...
ザー
JUST LIKE ON THAT DAY WHEN I WAS PICKED UP BY IKUKO
.....

YOU ARE QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE COMPUTER LATELY.
WAS THERE SOME INTERESTING ARTICLE ON THE INTERNET?
WHILE I THINK IT'S COMPLETE HOGWASH, IT IS QUITE FASCINATING.
TOHYA ....
WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MOTIVES FOR PEOPLE TO KILL ONE ANOTHER?
BUT IN REALITY OVERWHELMING NUMBERS ARE UNPLANNED, SUDDEN MURDERS RESULTING OUT OF A TRIVIAL QUARREL OR SOME STRANGE TENSION JUST IN THAT MOMENT..
SOCIAL STANDING, HONOUR, REVENGE, MONEY... THINGS LIKE THAT RIGHT?
IS THAT MATERIAL FOR A NEW NOVEL?
IN THE WORLD OF MYSTERIES, YES.

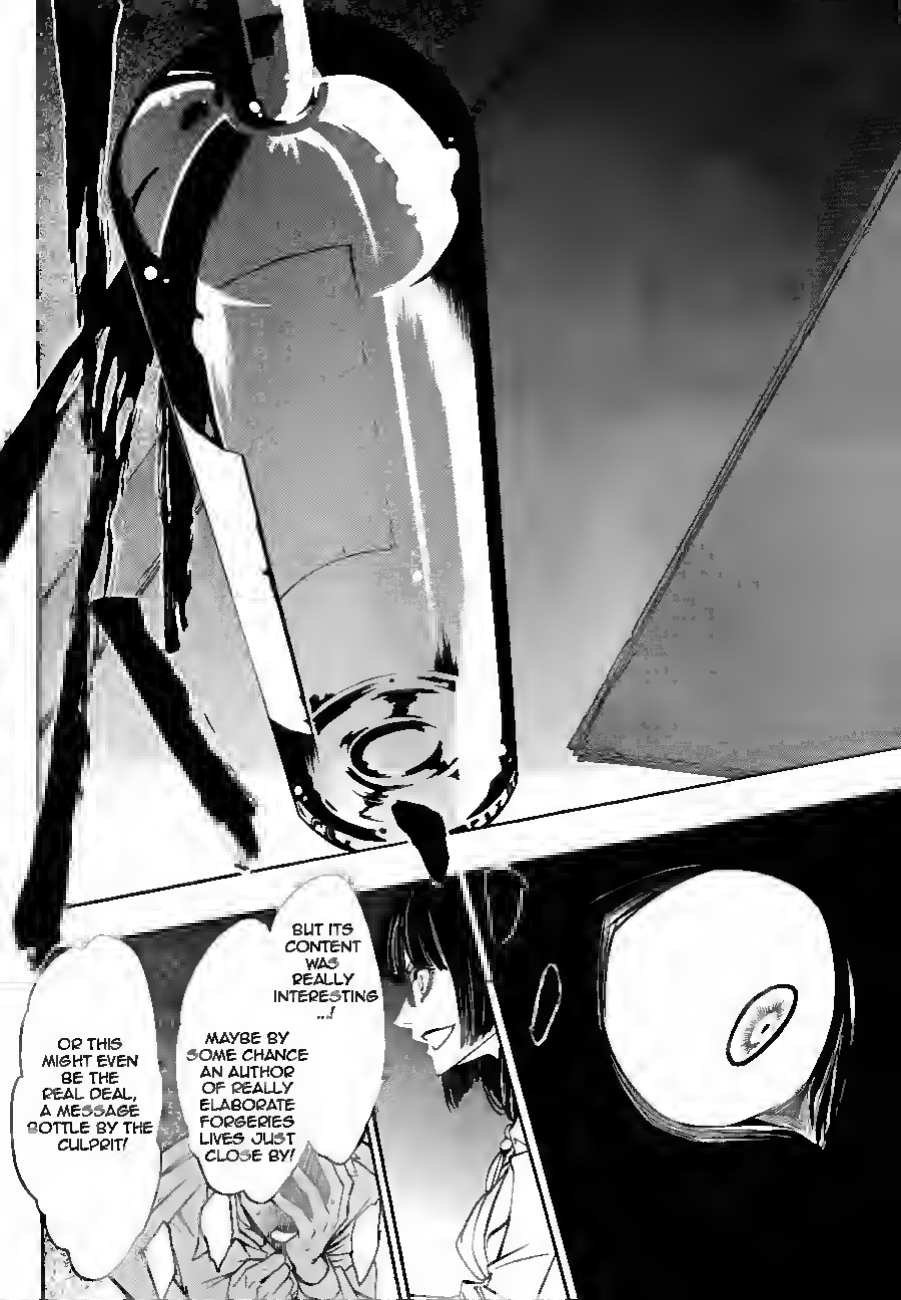
WOMEN DO IT TO ESCAPE FROM SOMEBODY WHO KEEPS THEM BOUND..
MEN DO IT FOR SOCIAL STANDING, OR FAME, OR EVEN TO MAKE A LOVER FOREVER THEIRS...
FROM A PSYCHO-LOGICAL PERSPEC-TIVE...


THEY RECREATE THEMSELVES IN A WAY THAT THEY ARE WORTHY OF DEATH AND COMMIT MURDER TO GIVE THEMSELVES DETERMINATION TO END IT.
AND MOST INDISCRI-MINATE KILLERS DO IT OUT OF A SUICIDE WISH.


HIHIHI!
IT IS REALLY FASCINATING.
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT CREATING A STORY WHERE MOTIVE IS THE MAIN THEME NEXT?

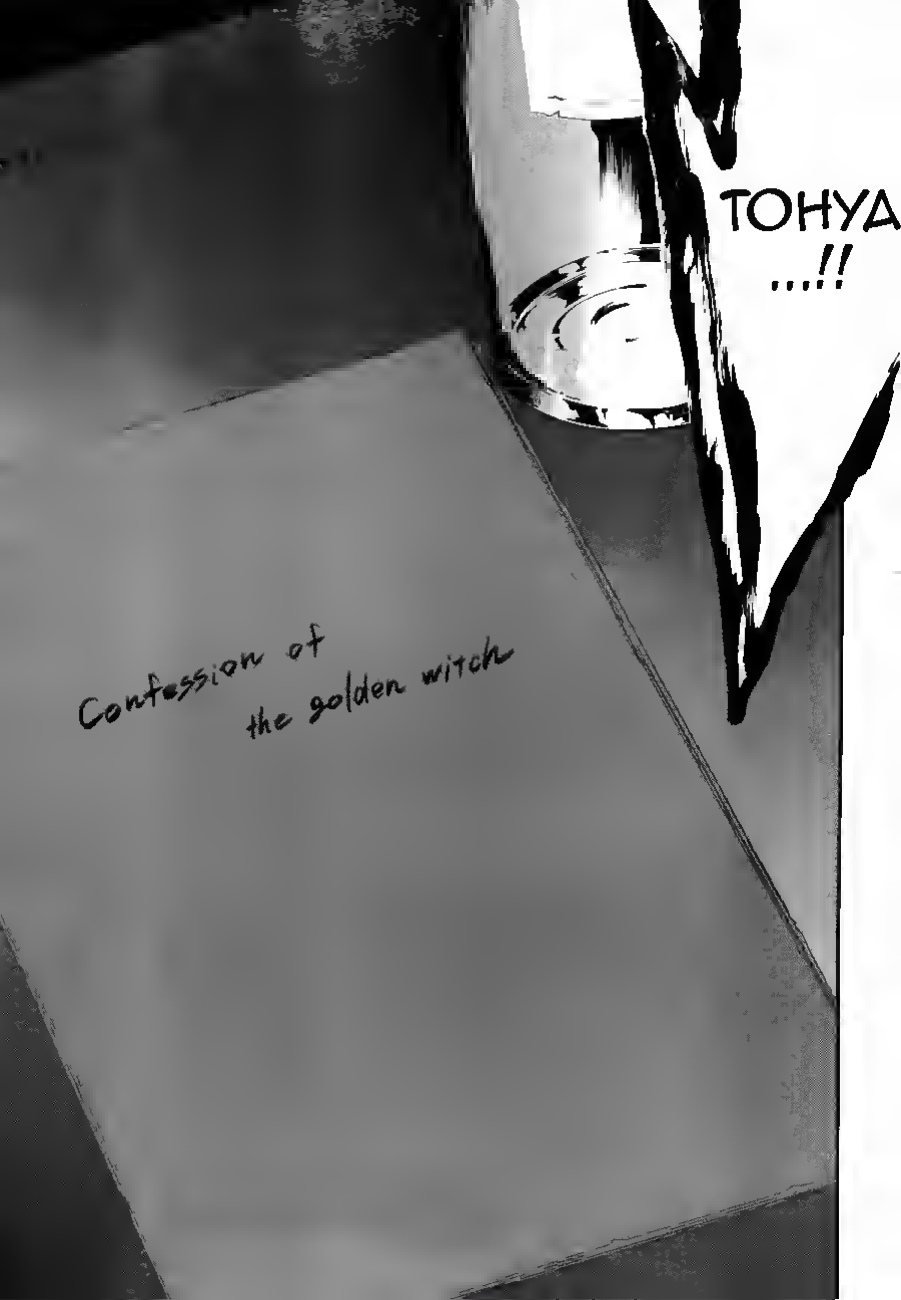
THAT ROKKEN-JIMA INCIDENT WE HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT!

... ROKKEN ... ...JIMA ...?
A FEW DAYS AGO WE TALKED ABOUT THE ROKKENJIMA MYSTERY, RIGHT?!
THE INCIDENT WHERE CULPRIT, MOTIVE, EVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DAY OF THE CRIME REMAIN A MYSTERY
AND THAT IS BOOMING RIGHT NOW ON THE NET!
THE THEORIES AND THOUGHTS ABOUT IT..
AND AMONG THEM THOSE FORGERIES, THEY ARE REALLY FASCINATING!
FORGERIES ARE WRITTEN ON THE HYPOTHESIS THAT THERE EXISTS MORE THAN THAT ONE MESSAGE BOTTLE SIGNED BY USHIROMIYA MARIA THAT DRIFTED ASHORE ON THAT NEIGHBOURING ISLAND..
HERE, LOOK AT THIS!
A FEW DAYS AGO
I PICKED THIS UP AT THE OCEAN NEAR THE ROAD WHERE I PICKED YOU UP AND I THOUGHT WE WOULD READ IT TOGETHER
BUT MORE THAN A FORGERY ITS CONTENT WAS LIKE THE MESSAGE BOTTLE FROM "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE"!

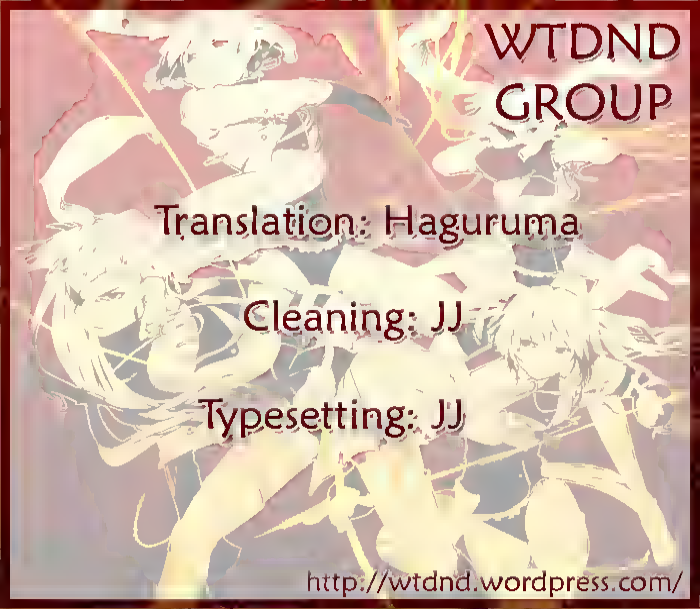

BUT ITS CONTENT WAS REALLY INTERESTING ...!
MAYBE BY SOME CHANCE AN AUTHOR OF REALLY ELABORATE FORGERIES LIVES JUST CLOSE BY!
OR THIS MIGHT EVEN BE THE REAL DEAL, A MESSAGE BOTTLE BY THE CULPRIT!

[Rokkenjima Explosion Accident]
Occurred on October 5th 1986 at 24o'clock on Rokkenjima within the Izu archipelago
It is rumoured that, seeking after the great fortune and hidden gold of family head Ushiromiya Kinzô, a fight where blood was avenged by blood broke out among the family members, but the truth is still within a catbox
Going by the scale of the explosion, it is hard to think of it as a mere accident, and the likelihood of a planned mass murder is high.
WHO ...
survivor Ushiromiya Eva keeps her silence.
following her death she escaped harm
by being absent on said date —
miya Ange will inherit her whole fortune
took over raising Ange immediately after
the incident,
makes one consider it being part of a
performance.
shiromiya Ange
WHO ARE THESE VOICES CALLING OUT MY NAME?
TOHYA ?
I DON'T KNOW THEM!
... AH ...
NOT MY NAME!
THAT IS ...

HELP ME...
IKU ... KO ...
TOHYA ...!!


TOHYA
...!!
Confession of
the golden witch

**Episode8:** *Twilight of the golden witch*


WTDND
GROUP
Translation: Haguruma
Cleaning: JJ
Typesetting: JJ
http://wtdnd.wordpress.com/